M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

CALIFORNIA
LIBRARY
JUL 31 1950
RECEIVED
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE
MONTHLY

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Volume 32 San Francisco, California, August, 1950 Number 8

NEWS OF NORDEN AUDUBON CAMP

Since arriving at Audubon Camp, away from the hurrying outside world, it occurred to me that you might like a few little pictures of the engrossing activities going on inside this world of Nature.

Here at 7000 ft. elevation near Donner Summit in the Sierra Nevada much is happening. Snow was in evidence when I arrived June 18th for a thrilling two weeks.

As for the bird life, of course they are singing and nesting on every hand. The pine grosbeaks of last year, nested closer to camp this year and much nearer the ground. They chose a beautiful setting at the end of a long drooping pine spray, with a spreading branch over them as a roof. No lovelier picture was ever presented for the eager photographers, who could easily record everything from the observation slope beside it. The morning I had the fun of watching the photographing, the birds put on an interesting performance. Usually the male came in from the trees at the back, singing and gathering morsels as he approached and would then feed the female on the nest. This time he came directly to her, apparently told her something, for she rose and went with him to a near-by tree where they chased their squirrel-enemy down the tree and off up the canyon. She then returned to her nesting and he to hunting food. Later he came on the usual routine, singing as he drew near, and fed her on the nest. It is a sight long to remember — this beautiful pair in such a matchless place.

The spotted sandpipers did not fare so fortunately. They made their nest on the shore of Lake Van Norden, laying four pale spotted eggs. But the waters rose from the melting snows, covering the nest, teaching them a sad lesson in timing and placing, which we hope will profit them for the next season.

The white-headed woodpeckers, who had their home on the camp road near the marmot's hang-out last year, had not yet arrived by July 5th. It was fun last year to tap on the trunk of their tree and see the female come to the opening and cock her eye at us below as tho inquiring milding who had come to call.

At Sierra Valley a large colony of yellow-headed blackbirds were nesting in the tule marshes and great flocks of white pelicans wheeled about overhead. It made an unforgettable picture.

There are many other beautiful birds about: the evening grosbeaks, western tanagers, pileolated warblers, Calliope hummingbirds and the modest wood ewee calling continually, but I am leaving too soon to know about their nesting.

Two years ago the lovely hermit thrush nested in a fir tree only 2½ ft. from the ground and adjacent to a well-trodden path, where many watched her sitting on the four blue eggs, which developed into healthy fledglings. According to Howard Cogswell, the bird expert at camp, 33 nesting species were observed and 148 total species recorded during the 1948 season.

As for the animal life, a fascinating flying squirrel, new to most of us, walked into the harmless trap. He really is a beautiful little creature, soft brown above, lovely white below and with almost human eyes. The stage was set in a sunny spot, and a tall bare pole chosen for the appointed movie actor. All the campers gathered for the pre-view. He was unbelievably cooperative, going calmly up the pole, round and round to the very top — cameras clicking and bated breath on every side. On the summit he paused, then took off, gliding gracefully almost into the camera of Dr. Ingles, the Director, and landing on the ground amid "Ohs" and "Ahs" from the audience. He made for a tree and disappeared into the leafy top.

Another visitor was the largest porcupine you ever set eyes upon. Out rushed all the brave campers, intent on another movie production. But herding him out into the sunshine was a delicate and amusing performance, which really should have included the human actors for the complete comedy. Under the porch, under the woodpile, under the trees they augued, and the whole trail strewn with souvenir quills, till the star performer finally ambled out into the sunshine, heading for the tallest tree. He made a wonderful subject, climbing in a perfect setting, pausing aften to inspect his audience amid free advise from the smart ones on the ground. Part way up he met a guy-wire, which formed a V in his path — and looked too small — but for which he headed, in spite of advise from below. Of course he got stuck. For a time it looked as tho lots would be drawn for someone to go up to free him. However, after resting, he squirmed thru amid loud cheers and went on up to one of the highest branches where he stayed all day. During the night he disappeared, but days later a dog came into camp with his poor nose full of his own souvenirs of an encounter, and Dr. Ingles was busy with his pliers for some time. You never can tell what will be happening next!

— Ethel E. Richardson

PILEATED WOODPECKERS in Sonoma County near Mt. St. Helena at about 2000 feet elevation, since 1943, but no nests observed. — Julian Adams.

BIRD BEHAVIOR. — A titmouse making its nest in an old mop-head hanging in the lath house, about five feet from the floor. — Miss Eva Gibson

An angered scrub jay nipped the neck of its young for refusing to eat a hard strawberry brought to it. In determination the adult picked up the rejected fruit, flying with it in hot pursuit of the young one.

— Miss Clelia Parom.

June — REDWOOD PARK — Trip

On Saturday, June 24th, 22 members and guests met at Orchard Camp, in Redwood Regional Park. The day was mild and sunny and many birds were singing, as we birded down stream to the park entrance. The most unusual birds seen were brown creeper, Tolmie warbler and solitary vireo. After lunch 15 of the group drove up to Sequoia Park and hiked up Redwood Peak. Several red-br. nuthatches were heard here, and a marsh hawk seen along Grizzly Peak Blvd. The following 42 species were observed:

T. vulture; red-tl., and marsh hawk; Cal. quail; m. dove; Allen hummer; red-sh. flicker; hairy and downy woodpecker; ash-th., west. and olive-sd. flycatcher; bk. phoebe; cliff swallow; Steller and scrub (Cal) jay; ches.-bk. chickadee; titmouse; bush-tit; red-br. nuthatch; creeper; wren-tit; house and Bewick wren; robin; rus. bk thrush; sol. and warb. vireo; or.-cr., Tolmie and pil. warbler; bk.-hd. grosbeak; lazuli bunting; purple and house finch; pine siskin; Am. and lesser (green-backed) goldfinch; spot. and br. towhee; Ore. junco and song sparrow. — A. Laurence Curl, Leader and Historian

July — TAYLOR PARK — Trip

Twenty nine members and guests met at Samuel Taylor State Park in Marin County on Sunday, July 9, a clear, pleasantly warm day. Quite a few birds were still in song. In the morning we birded along the fire road upstream from the picnic grounds. We lunched in a secluded nook in the redwoods, and had as neighbors winter wrens, creepers and chickadees. Later most of the group hiked on downstream to the lower bridge through more open country. A pygmy nuthatch, band-tailed pigeons and a Sonoma chipmunk were noteworthy. The following 45 species were observed:

Br. pelican; gt. bl. heron; Am. egret; t. vulture; red-tl. hawk; west. gull; band-tl. pigeon; m. dove; Anna hummer; bd. kingfisher; Cal. woodpecker; ash-th., west. and ol.-sd. flycatcher; w. wood pewee; vi-gr., barn and cliff swallow; Steller and scrub (Cal.) jay; crow; ch.-bk. chickadee; pygmy nuthatch; creeper; winter wren; robin; rus.-bk. thrush; wes. bluebird; Hutton and warb. vireo; or.-cr. and pil. warbler; meadowlark; Brewer blackbird; bk.-hd. grosbeak; lazuli bunting; pur. and house finch; pine siskin; lesser (gr-bk.) goldfinch; spot. and br. towhee; Ore. junco; chipp. and song sparrow. — A. Laurence Curl, Leader and Historian.

LECTURE Friday, August 25 at 8 p.m., Tilden Nature Area, Tilden Regional Park. "Amphibians and Reptiles of the Regional Parks" by Prof. Robert Stebbins. The public is invited.

COURSE IN BIRD IDENTIFICATION

Mr. Howard Cogswell, Museum assistant in the Dept. of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, will be the instructor. Beginning Monday, Sept. 29, there will be ten consecutive weekly lectures at 8 p.m. in Berkeley. Place of meeting will be given in the Sept. Gull. This will be a most profitable and interesting course. Fee $5.00. Send applications now to Chairman of Education Committee, Mr. Frank Scott, 1508 La Loma Ave., Berkeley 8, AS. 3-1253.

AUGUST MEETING

The 395th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held Aug. 10th at the Oakland Public Museum, Lake Merritt, Oak, and 14th Streets, at 7:30 p.m.

Following the business meeting Mr. Gale Richardson will show his colored motion picture "Yosemite and its Four Seasons". We have enthusiastic reports from those people who have already seen it.

Guests are welcome. No-host dinner at Zerikotes, Lake Merritt at 6 p.m.

— Harry C. Adamson, Program Chairman

AUGUST DUMBARTON BRIDGE TRIP

On Sunday, August 13, to the Dumbarton Bridge area near the southern end of San Francisco Bay. This should be a good spot for early shore birds and white pelicans, and maybe even phalaropes and stilts. Transportation by private car. Meet at the parking area near the east end of the causeway at 9:00. Leader, Carlyle Sather, WA. 1-4683. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends.

AUGUST U. C. CAMPUS STRAWBERRY CANYON TRIP

On Saturday, August 26, to the University of California Campus and Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley. Meet at the west entrance to the campus at the head of University Ave. at 8:30. From San Francisco take 7:47 "F" train to University Ave., and walk east one block to the campus. One group will cover the lower campus. A more strenuous trip will start near the stadium and go up Strawberry Canyon. Both groups will meeet at the Botanical Garden for lunch. Leader, Alison Berry, LA. 5-5813. Bring binoculars, lunch, and interested friends.

— A. Laurence Curl, Chairman
Field Trips Committee

NEW MEMBERS — We welcome the following: from San Francisco: Mrs. Birdella Clark, Mr. Hans Meinhardt, Miss Harriet Mundy, Mr. Clifford A. Nelson; from Berkeley: Mr. W. C. Moldenshardt, Mrs. C. Scott, Miss Eleanor Stevenson; from Los Gatos: Mrs. Beatrice W. Nielsen.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Branch of National Audubon Society

President... Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds.....140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11, AN. 1-7121
Cor. Sec. .. Mr. Edward A. Mayers....2695 Greenwich St., San Francisco 23, WE. 1-2447
Treasurer... Miss Ivander MacIver.....2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4, AS. 3-8398
Editor..... Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5, HU. 3-3180

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco
Alternate months Oakland

Joint membership, Local & National $5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine